of the Transcaucasian Republic. The same day three independent republics were formed: Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbeidjan.

Georgia began its life as an independent state with a population and area about as large as West Virginia's, completely encircled by unfriendly neighbors. There was no jubilation in Tiflis. The Georgian leaders realized that national independence had been imposed on them by a chain of calamities beyond their control. Their first task was to stop the Turkish offensive. On June 4, the Georgian government signed on the dotted line the Treaty of Peace and Friendship submitted by Turkey, but at the same time it asked the Germans to assume control over Georgian railroads. Three days later German pickets appeared on Georgia's border and along her railroads to insure regular traffic.

The threat of Turkish invasion faded. The Germans, perfectly drilled automatons in gray uniforms, entered Tiflis quietly. They were not many, hardly more than a battalion, and were under strict orders not to mingle with the local population. The government quartered them in a large apartment house in the center of the city, half a block from *Bor'ba*'s office, with armed sentries posted at its entrance. Uniformed men were seen at the windows, and from time to time a German platoon would march through the streets, always in silence, without songs or military music. At first the local population looked at the Germans with sullen hostility, but as time went on relations improved. There was no fraternization, the German soldiers and officers remained strangers in Georgia, but the Georgians recognized that Germany was protecting them against the Turks and, for the time being, also against the Communists.

CIVIL WAR IN RUSSIA

In contrast to her precarious international position—open hostility on the part of the Communists in Russia, and friction with neighbors—Georgia enjoyed internal peace. The people were united around their leaders. The government was neither very efficient nor particularly bold in planning long-range reforms, but it was honest and progressive and close to the people.

North Caucasus was ablaze at that time, and sparks of the civil war reached Transcaucasia. In the spring of 1918, the Communists had a firm hold on only a part of central and northern Russia; the rest of the nation was split among local anti-Bolshevist governments and war lords. Soon after the Communist coup, a group of generals, most of whom had been involved in the Kornilov mutiny, decided to organize